

U E133 AAE

MAHATHIR-NON-ALIGNED

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 2300 HOURS TODAY; MARCH 11)

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA TONIGHT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RECENT TENDENCY OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO MOVE TOWARDS RADICALISM AND COVERT ALIGNMENT.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT ONLY BY PURSUING THE NON-ALIGNED COURSE COULD THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MOVEMENT BE MAINTAINED.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HELD IN HONOUR OF VISITING YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER PUAN MILKA PLANINC, HE SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT BELGRADE AND KUALA LUMPUR SHARED SIMILAR CONCERN AND HAD VOICED STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THE MOVEMENT BROUGHT BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE AND PRINCIPLES.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WAS CONFIDENT THAT YUGOSLAVIA, AS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE ORIGINAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE MOVEMENT WOULD REMAIN.

+THE POSITIVE ROLE PLAYED BY YUGOSLAVIA, ESPECIALLY BY THE LATE PRESIDENT TITO, TOWARDS THE PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT AND UNITY OF THE MOVEMENT WILL ALWAYS BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND CHERISHED BY ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

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ON KAMPUCHEA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA APPRECIATED YUGOSLAVIA'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK.

THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF KAMPUCHEA HAD BEEN VIOLATED WITH IMPUNITY RESULTING IN A THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, HE SAID.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY (ZOPFAN) IN THIS REGION WAS SIMILAR TO BELGRADE'S ROLE IN URGING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE.

ON DISARMAMENT, HE SAID THAT WHILE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND RESOURCES HAD BEEN CHANNELLED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS, POVERTY AND HUNGER STILL

AFFLICTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

ALL STATES CONCERNED SHOULD RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF GENERAL DISARMAMENT, HE SAID. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-NON-ALIGNED 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ON THE NEED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO RECOVER THEIR JUST AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS TO THEIR HOMELAND AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN TO ENABLE ITS PEOPLE REGAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND COERCION.

ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, HE SAID MALAYSIA WOULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AND WOULD SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE GULF REGION.

ON ANTARCTICA, HE HOPED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING GREATER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENSURING THAT THE CONTINENT WAS GOVERNED AND MANAGED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL MANKIND.

ON BILATERAL COOPERATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHILE THERE WAS MEANINGFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, FIRMS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND MALAYSIA TOO SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, JOINT VENTURES AND INVESTMENT.

WELCOMING YUGOSLAVIA'S DECISION TO HOLD AN EXHIBITION AND SEMINAR ON YUGOSLAV TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY HERE NEXT MONTH, HE SAID THE OCCASION WOULD CREATE GREATER AWARENESS OF YUGOSLAV PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY AMONG MALAYSIANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. -- BERNAMA

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